



WHITE HOUSE  
*Department of State*

**TELEGRAM**

'74 JUL 17 PM 7:12

~~SECRET~~ 5966

PAGE 01 NAIROBI 06028 171556Z

50

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

019108

O R 171505Z JUL 74  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8172  
INFO  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

~~SECRET~~ NAIROBI 6028

EMIS

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, KE, US  
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATED KENYA REQUEST FOR U.S. ARMS

REF: (A) NAIROBI 8130, NOVEMBER 28, 1973;  
(B) STATE 240852, DECEMBER 10, 1973

1. [REDACTED] I WILL SHORTLY (BY END THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK) BE CALLED IN TO SEE PRESIDENT KENYATTA, WHO WILL REQUEST U.S. ARMS (PROBABLY HELICOPTERS SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES, AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS) TO ENABLE KENYA TO STRENGTHEN ITS VERY MODEST ARMED FORCES TO COUNTER-  
BALANCE THREAT POSED BY HIGH AND GROWING LEVELS OF SOMALIA AND UGANDA ARMAMENT. KENYATTA WILL ALSO BE MAKING SIMILAR APPROACHES TO BRITISH AND FRENCH.

2. WHILE I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BECOME MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO KENYA, I BELIEVE IT IN OUR INTERESTS TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE SOVIETS HAVE ON NUMEROUS PAST OCCASIONS MADE KNOWN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY ARMS TO KENYA. WHILE I UNDERSTAND, PER REF B, IMPOSSIBILITY OF MAP GRANTS FOR KENYA, I WOULD HOPE DEPART-

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

~~SECRET~~

74



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02 NAIROB 06028 171556Z

MENT CAN NOW GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO OBTAINING  
PRESIDENTIAL  
DETERMINATION TO AUTHORIZE CASH SALES UNDER FMS PROGRAM.  
PLEASE ADVISE CURRENT STATUS PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION  
ASAP AND WHAT  
IF ANYTHING SPECIFIC I MIGHT TELL KENYATTA  
ON THIS SCORE.

3. IN RESPONSE KENYATTA'S REQUEST FOR ARMS, I WILL,  
THEREFORE, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE NO REPEAT NO  
POSSIBILITY  
OF GRANTS. BUT, IF/WHEN PRESIDENTIAL  
DETERMINATION OBTAINED, WHAT ABOUT CREDIT? IS IT  
CONCEIVABLE THAT FMS CREDIT OR EXIMBANK FINANCING  
(OR GUARANTEES) MIGHT BE AVAILABLE? COMMERCIAL CREDIT?  
MAY I SAY ANYTHING IN REGARD TO CREDIT FINANCING?  
I WILL, IN ANY EVENT, EXPRESS SYMPATHY WITH PLIGHT  
RELATIVELY UNDERARMED KENYA FINDS ITSELF IN AND ASSURE  
HIM THAT I WILL ASK WASHINGTON TO CONSIDER HIS REQUEST  
AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT I MAY ADVISE HIM  
WHETHER PURCHASES OF DESIRED ITEMS WOULD BE FEASIBLE  
AND ON WHAT TERMS.

4. WHILE EMPHASIZING OUR DESIRE TO BE FORTHCOMING ON  
HIS REQUEST, I WOULD ALSO LIKE, DEPENDING ON ATMOSPHERICS  
OF MEETING, TO BE AUTHORIZED DURING MEETING WITH  
KENYATTA TO EXPRESS MY "PERSONAL" CONCERN OVER RAMPANT  
ARMS RACE IN EAST AFRICA AND ITS ATTENDANT SECURITY  
THREAT, AS WELL AS HARMFUL EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN REGION. I WOULD, OF COURSE,  
COMMENT FAVORABLY ON KENYA'S PAST RESTRAINT IN FACE OF  
LARGE-SCALE ARMS ACQUISITIONS BY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.  
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK HIM WHETHER,  
IN VIEW OF  
KENYA'S RECORD OF RESTRAINT, HE (KENYATTA) MIGHT NOT BE  
IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO PLAY AFRICAN STATESMAN AND  
MAKE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PLEA FOR SOME FORM OF MUTUAL  
RESTRAINT ON PART OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN IMMEDIATE  
REGION, I.E., UGANDA, TANZANIA, SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

5. IF KENYATTA INDICATES INTEREST IN THIS IDEA, I COULD



*Department of State*

**TELEGRAM**

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 03 NAIROB 06028 171556Z

SUGGEST THAT THESE FIVE COUNTRIES (INCLUDING KENYA) COULD --  
DESPITE THEIR OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES -- FIND IT IN THEIR  
MUTUAL INTEREST TO PUT SOME KIND OF "CEILING" ON ARMS  
RACE BY AT LEAST  
AGREEING NOT TO ACQUIRE HIGHLY  
SOPHISTICATED OFFENSIVE WEAPONS NOT YET IN REGION OR ON  
ORDER. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, IN NO WAY AFFECT KENYA'S  
EFFORTS TO "CATCH UP." MOREOVER, SOME KIND OF JOINT  
DECLARATION NOT TO RESORT TO USE OF FORCE TO SETTLE  
DISPUTES AMONG FIVE COUNTRIES MIGHT--DESPITE THEIR  
DIFFERENCES -- ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE AND USEFUL AS DEVICE  
TO REDUCE INTER-STATE TENSIONS AND DAMPEN COSTLY ARMS  
RACE.

6. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE PARAS 3-5 REQUESTED ON  
URGENT BASIS.

7. SINCE FOREGOING MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT INITIATIVE  
OF KENYATTA, I WOULD BE IN PSYCHOLOGICALLY STRONGER POSITION  
TO MAKE KNOWN DIRECTLY TO HIM OUR UNHAPPINESS OVER  
EXPULSION OF U.S. GEOLOGIST JOHN SAUL. DEPENDING ON MY  
ASSESSMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES, I MAY ALSO RAISE SAUL CASE  
WITH HIM.  
MARSHALL